

autism spectrum disorders, supporting programs for increased research and improved treatment of autism, and improving training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

S. RES. 332

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 332, a resolution observing the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994.

S. RES. 342

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 342, a resolution designating April 30, 2004, as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans", and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2889

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2889 intended to be proposed to S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DODD, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2350. A bill to establish the Long Island Sound Stewardship System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, Long Island Sound holds a special place in our Nation's history, its present, and its future. It has played a key role in the development of the Nation, from the early days of the colonists, through to this day. Its bounty nourished the colonists, its coves sheltered their ships, and provided harbors for trade.

Today, Long Island Sound remains a vital resource to the area: its biological resources provide jobs, and its beauty draws tourists who come to visit the Sound to fish, to sail, and simply to enjoy its shores. It is estimated that these activities contribute approximately \$5 billion annually to the economy of the region. This is not so surprising when you realize that over 28 million people live within 50 miles of the Sound.

It is a blessing that so many people can enjoy and benefit from Long Island Sound, in so many ways. But it is also a challenge that threatens the future of the Sound. Less than 20 percent of the shoreline of Long Island Sound is

accessible to the public, and every year, more shoreline is developed and removed from public access. Marshes and estuaries around the Sound are being drained and developed at an alarming rate. These tidal marshes are critical for the ecological health of the Sound, which is the foundation of the Sound's vital economic contribution to the region. In short, to preserve the blessings of Long Island Sound for future generations, this generation must act. This is why Senator CLINTON and I have introduced the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act.

The Long Island Sound Stewardship Act builds on the years of good work done by the Long Island Sound Study Group. This group, made up of dedicated people from Federal, State, and local government agencies, non-government organizations, and private interests, has worked together to develop a vision of good stewardship for Long Island Sound. Many of them are here today, and I thank them for their hard work.

Our bill will help us achieve their vision, by providing funds and a congressional mandate to work towards this vision. Under this bill, those who agree to preserve public access or ecological characteristics of their land can be recognized by having the land designated as a Long Island Stewardship Site. The bill also provides funding to facilitate the preservation of these characteristics. Most important, the bill achieves these ends through a voluntary program, a cooperative venture between all the stakeholders: public and private, Federal, State, and local.

The Long Island Sound Study has already set a fine example of cooperation and vision. I introduce this bill to further that vision. I look forward to working with the Connecticut and New York delegations, and all the stakeholders, as we develop and refine this bill. I am confident that working together, we will preserve the blessings of Long Island Sound.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2350

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Long Island Sound Stewardship Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Long Island Sound is a national treasure of great cultural, environmental, and ecological importance;

(2) 8,000,000 people live within the Long Island Sound watershed and 28,000,000 people (approximately 10 percent of the population of the United States) live within 50 miles of Long Island Sound;

(3) activities that depend on the environmental health of Long Island Sound contribute more than \$5,000,000,000 each year to the regional economy;

(4) the portion of the shoreline of Long Island Sound that is accessible to the general public (estimated at less than 20 percent of the total shoreline) is not adequate to serve the needs of the people living in the area;

(5) existing shoreline facilities are in many cases overburdened and underfunded;

(6) large parcels of open space already in public ownership are strained by the effort to balance the demand for recreation with the needs of sensitive natural resources;

(7) approximately 1/3 of the tidal marshes of Long Island Sound have been filled, and much of the remaining marshes have been ditched, dyked, or impounded, reducing the ecological value of the marshes; and

(8) many of the remaining exemplary natural landscape is vulnerable to further development.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Long Island Sound Stewardship System to preserve areas of critical importance because of the open space, public access, and ecological value of the areas.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMITTEE.—The term "Committee" means the Long Island Sound Stewardship Coordinating Committee established by section 5(a).

(2) REGION.—The term "Region" means the Long Island Sound Stewardship System Region established by section 4(a).

(3) STATES.—The term "States" means the States of Connecticut and New York.

SEC. 4. LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP SYSTEM REGION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the States the Long Island Sound Stewardship System Region.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Region shall encompass the immediate coastal upland and underwater areas along Long Island Sound, including those portions of the Sound with coastally influenced vegetation, as described on the map entitled the "Long Island Sound Stewardship Region" and dated April 21, 2004.

SEC. 5. LONG ISLAND SOUND STEWARDSHIP COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a committee to be known as the "Long Island Sound Stewardship Coordinating Committee".

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Committee shall be the Director of the Long Island Sound Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, or designee.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The chairperson shall appoint the members of the Committee in accordance with this subsection and section 320(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(c)).

(B) REPRESENTATION.—The Committee shall—

(i) include equal representation of the interests of the States; and

(ii) represent—

(I) Federal, State, and local government interests;

(II) the interests of nongovernmental organizations;

(III) academic interests; and

(IV) private interests.

(2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of a member of the Committee shall be made not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Committee.

(2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Committee—

(A) shall not affect the powers of the Committee; and

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Committee have been appointed, the Committee shall hold the initial meeting of the Committee.

(f) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less than 4 times each year.

(g) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee shall—

(1) consistent with the guidelines described in section 9(c)—

(A) establish specific criteria for the evaluation of applications for stewardship site designations; and

(B) evaluate and award or deny stewardship designation to applicants for that designation;

(2) consistent with the guidelines described in section 9(d)—

(A) evaluate applications from government or nonprofit organizations qualified to hold conservation easements for funds to purchase land or development rights for stewardship sites; and

(B) award funds to qualified applicants;

(3) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop and publish a management plan that—

(A) assesses the current resources of and threats to Long Island Sound;

(B) assesses the role of the Long Island Sound Stewardship System in protecting Long Island Sound;

(C) establishes—

(i) guidelines, schedules, and due dates for applying for designation as a stewardship site; and

(ii) specific criteria to be used in evaluating stewardship site applications;

(D) includes information about any grants that are available for the purchase of land or property rights to protect stewardship sites;

(E) shall be made available to the public on the Internet and in hardcopy form; and

(F) shall be updated at least every other year, with information on applications for stewardship site designation and funding published more frequently; and

(4) concurrent with the first management plan, publish a list of sites that the Committee considers most appropriate for designation as stewardship sites.

SEC. 7. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

(a) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Committee considers advisable to carry out this Act.

(b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Committee considers necessary to carry out this Act.

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On request of the Chairperson of the Committee, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Committee.

(c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(d) GIFTS.—The Committee may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 8. COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Committee who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be

compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Committee who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Committee may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Committee to perform the duties of the Committee.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Committee.

(3) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Committee may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Committee without reimbursement.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of the employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Committee may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

SEC. 9. STEWARDSHIP SITES.

(a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING LAND.—In this section, the term “qualifying land” means land—

(1) that is in the Region; and

(2) that is—

(A) Federal, State, local, or tribal land;

(B) land owned by a nonprofit organization; or

(C) privately owned land.

(b) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—Owners or other parties in control of qualifying land may apply to the Committee to have the qualifying land designated as a Long Island Sound stewardship site.

(c) GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STEWARDSHIP SITE DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall choose land to be designated as a stewardship site based on—

(A) the contribution of the land to open space on and public access to Long Island Sound; and

(B) the ecological value of the land.

(2) CRITERIA.—In considering land described in applications submitted under subsection (b), the Committee shall consider—

(A) land cover;

(B) size;

(C) adjacency and connectivity to existing parks and open spaces;

(D) water quality;

(E) current or prospective recreational use;

(F) visitor demand;

(G) scenic quality;

(H) cultural resources;

(I) erosion and flood hazard prevention;

(J) environmental justice;

(K) fish and wildlife productivity;

(L) biodiversity;

(M) scientific value;

(N) water quality protection;

(O) habitat restoration characteristics;

(P) connectivity to other habitats that are vital to sustaining healthy living resources in the Long Island Sound watershed;

(Q) risk of development; and

(R) other criteria developed by the Committee under section 6(1)(A).

(d) GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR AWARDED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall award funds to qualified applicants to help to secure and improve the open space, public access, or ecological values of stewardship sites, through—

(A) purchase of the property of the site;

(B) purchase of relevant property rights of the site; or

(C) entering into any other binding legal arrangement that ensures that the values of the site are preserved.

(2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Committee shall exert due diligence to distribute funds equitably between the States.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$40,000,000 for each fiscal year, to be allocated from the national estuary program under section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330).

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—For each fiscal year—

(1) not more than 15 percent of funds made available under subsection (a) shall be used to improve the facilities of stewardship sites; and

(2) at least 85 percent of funds made available under subsection (a) shall be used to secure the values of stewardship sites.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out using any assistance or grant under this Act shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the activity.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 2351. A bill to establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services and a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Medical Services Support Act of 2004 with my colleague, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD. This legislation will strengthen Federal efforts to support community-based emergency medical services across America.

A comprehensive, coordinated emergency medical services system is essential to assure quality care and prompt response in incidents ranging from automobile crashes to catastrophic weather to terrorist attacks. The emergency medical services system is a crucial part of our health care safety net.

Unfortunately, for the past twenty years, Federal support for EMS has been both inefficient and uncoordinated. No fewer than seven Federal agencies are involved in various aspects of emergency medical services. Most, however, focus on only one segment of the EMS system and don't effectively coordinate with other agencies.

In 2001, at the request of Senator FEINGOLD and myself, the General Accounting Office researched the status of this vital system. The GAO report, titled, "Emergency Medical Services: Reported needs are Wide-Ranging with a Growing Focus on Lack of Data," exposed the need to increase coordination among Federal agencies as they address the needs of regional, State, or local emergency medical services systems.

This legislation would formally establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS), which is currently an ad hoc committee with little formal direction. It would require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to provide organizational and staff support.

This legislation would enhance coordination among the Federal agencies involved with the State, local, tribal and regional emergency medical services and 9-1-1 systems. It also would help Federal agencies coordinate their EMS-related activities and maximize the best use of established funding.

The President has recognized the need for this coordination. He included a similar proposal in his reauthorization proposal for the "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity act of 2003" (SAFETEA) that was transmitted by Secretary Mineta to Congress on May 12, 2003. The Senate-passed highway bill also included a similar proposal.

The legislation we introduce today builds upon the Administration's proposal by creating a more effective structure and enhancing the role of local EMS providers into Federal EMS programs. While I support the provisions in the Senate-passed bill, they fail to create a mechanism for individuals at the state and local levels to provide input into how Federal EMS programs should be coordinated.

Local, State and Federal level emergency medical services systems are extremely diverse and involve numerous different agencies and organizations. To assure a viable, responsive emergency medical services system, Federal agencies need the input and advice of their non-Federal partners and from persons regulating or providing emer-

gency medical services systems at the state and local level.

According to Tom Judge, the Executive Director of LifeFlight of Maine, an air ambulance provider, and Jay Bradshaw, the State of Maine's EMS Director, improved coordination can help strengthen support for a wide range of emergency medical services, from rural EMS providers, to communications between EMS systems, to improving coordination between local EMS providers and their Federal partners.

Another recent GAO report made it clear that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services needs to better coordinate its reimbursement with the Department of Transportation's matching grants for equipment and vehicles. Many of Maine's rural communities, such as Rumford, are at risk of seeing their first ambulance service closures due to low-reimbursement rates. If DOT targeted assistance to the low reimbursement areas that are at risk of shutting down, we might be able to maintain service in these areas.

Decisions at the Federal Communications Commission regarding spectrum management could make most of the existing EMS and Fire radios obsolete over the next few years. In St. George, Maine, the volunteer Fire Rescue has 30 mobile and portable radios, 40 pagers, and a base station that could become obsolete. In making future decisions regarding spectrum management, the FCC must work with Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to help communities purchase interoperable radios if their old ones become obsolete.

I am pleased to have the support of Maine EMS, LifeFlight of Maine, the American Ambulance Association, the National Association of EMS Directors, and others for this legislation.

We must ensure that Federal agencies coordinate their efforts to support the dedicated men and women who provide EMS services across our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts by cosponsoring this legislation.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, today to introduce legislation that will help improve and streamline Federal support for community-based emergency medical services. Our proposal will also provide an avenue for local officials and EMS providers to help Federal agencies improve existing programs and future initiatives.

Congress has long recognized the important role played by EMS providers. However, Federal support for EMS has been unfocused and uncoordinated, with responsibility scattered among a number of different agencies. In 2001, the General Accounting Office cited the need to increase coordination between the federal agencies involved with EMS issues but not much progress has been made since that report was issued. The Federal Government doesn't even have a good handle on how

much it is spending on EMS or what the needs are for EMS. The bill we introduce today is a good first step towards addressing the deficiencies in our current EMS policies.

This legislation establishes a federal interagency committee whose purpose will be to coordinate federal EMS activities, identify EMS needs, assure proper integration of EMS in homeland security planning, and make recommendations on improving and streamlining EMS support. Although Federal law, PL 107-188, called for the establishment of a working group on EMS, this legislation goes further in detailing the role and function of the interagency committee. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee will certainly iron out any overlap that may exist.

This legislation also establishes an advisory council for the interagency committee that includes representatives from throughout the EMS community. The advisory committee, made up of non-Federal representatives from all EMS sectors and from both urban and rural areas, will provide guidance and input to the interagency committee on a variety of issues including the development of standards and national plans, expanding or creating grant programs, and improving and streamlining Federal EMS efforts. The advisory council is a critical component of this legislation because it is the channel through which local EMS practitioners can directly impact and help reform national EMS policy.

I want to thank the American Ambulance Association, the Association of Air Medical Services, the Emergency Nurses Association, the National Association of EMS Physicians, the National Association of State EMS Directors, and the National Registry of EMTs for their support of this bill. I also want to thank all of those Wisconsinites who provided so much helpful input in coming up with this legislation. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Marvin Birnbaum of the University of Wisconsin, Fire Chief Dave Bloom of the Town of Madison, and Dan Williams, chair of Wisconsin's EMS advisory board for their advice and guidance.

EMS providers are a critical component of our Nation's first responder network. We must act now to streamline and coordinate federal EMS support and work to better understand the needs of the EMS community. I therefore ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. INOUE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2352. A bill to prevent the slaughter of horses in and from the United States for human consumption by prohibiting the slaughter of horses for human consumption and by prohibiting the trade and transport of horselflesh and live horses intended for human consumption, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise along with my colleagues, Senators LANDRIEU, LIEBERMAN, INOUE and COLLINS, in order to introduce S. 2352, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.

As a veterinarian, I am well aware of the love that Americans have for their horses. Much of our Nation's early history and culture is associated with these animals. We think of George Washington's horses and the legend of Paul Revere's ride and the Pony Express. And more recently, we were reminded of how the Depression Era race between Seabiscuit and War Admiral raised the spirit of our Nation.

While horses in the United States are not raised for food, last year alone, almost 50,000 horses were slaughtered in the United States for human consumption abroad. Pet horses, ex-racing horses, workhorses and even some federally protected wild horses are currently being slaughtered for human consumption in Europe and Asia. A series of recent polls show that Americans overwhelmingly support a ban on the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

Often, owners who sell their horses at auction are unaware that their horses may well be on their way to one of the two remaining slaughterhouses in America where horses are killed for human consumption. These slaughterhouses are foreign owned and the product is shipped abroad as are the profits.

States have tried to be proactive in preventing this form of slaughter in the United States. Several States have already enacted state laws prohibiting the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Several other States are currently considering similar legislation. However, due to the absence of a Federal law on this subject, the two existing foreign-owned slaughterhouses, which happen to be located in Texas—a State that has passed a law banning horse slaughter for human consumption—have still been able to operate.

I know that some people have expressed concern about what will happen to horses if slaughter is banned. Many of these horses will be sold to a new owner, others may be kept longer, and still others will be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian. Others will be cared for by the horse rescue community. The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act does allow fines collected under the Act to be distributed to qualified horse rescue groups caring for horses confiscated under the Act.

Some people have questioned whether this law will result in the abuse and neglect of unwanted horses. Thankfully, statistics do not support this

claim at all. Recently released figures show that the number of abuse cases dropped significantly in Illinois after the State's only horse slaughtering facility was destroyed in a fire in 2002. Also, since California passed a law banning the slaughter of horses for human consumption, there has been no discernible increase in cruelty and neglect cases in the State.

Furthermore, it is currently illegal to "turn out," neglect, or starve a horse, so this bill will not result in an increase in the number of orphaned horses in the United States. If a person attempts to turn his or her horses out, under current law, animal control agents will be able to enforce Federal humane laws. As I stated before, this bill seeks only to prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption. If a person wishes to put an animal down, it costs an average of \$50 to \$150 to have the horse humanely euthanized and disposed of—a fraction of what it costs to keep a horse as a companion or a work animal. That cost is not too big a burden to bear when no other options are available.

The time for a strong Federal law banning this practice is now. This bill does not target other forms of slaughter, rendering, or euthanasia but rather focuses solely on the slaughter of American horses for human consumption. The House version of this bill, H.R. 857, currently has two hundred cosponsors. Please join Senator LANDRIEU and me in cosponsoring the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues in introducing the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. This bill will prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption, a practice which many Americans oppose and of which many more are completely unaware. As a life-long admirer of these beautiful and noble animals, I was shocked to learn that tens of thousands of horses are slaughtered and exported each year for human consumption in other countries. Aside from the fact that there is virtually no demand for the human consumption of horse flesh in this country, the absence of humane treatment of these horses is very disappointing. We must ensure that this beloved animal is treated in an appropriate manner and that this deplorable act, which many Americans find unconscionable, is prohibited under Federal law. Therefore, I am proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of this legislation. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few issues about this important measure.

The need for the humane euthanasia of horses is a sad reality for all horse owners. Each horse's life has inherent value and it is usually with great sad-

ness and care that horse owners face the realities of infirmity, age, or other reasons which call for the putting down of their animal. However, the current practice of horse slaughter is void of the human compassion involved with appropriate euthanasia. The export of horses for slaughter and the slaughter of horses in the United States by unskilled and careless workers increase the suffering of these animals. These slaughter houses appear uninterested in the welfare of these animals, and take little note of the objections of the millions of Americans who find the consumption of horse flesh to be inappropriate.

Throughout the development of this country, the human consumption of horse flesh has never been a widely accepted activity. This societal taboo is undoubtedly due to the unique relationship enjoyed between mankind and horses for thousands of years. Horses have tread many steps with American men and women. They were there in our work, on our farms, for transportation and communication, in the taming of a vast American frontier, and on every battlefield prior to World War II. They have proven themselves loyal and gentle animals, without which the development of our country may not have been possible and certainly much more difficult. Horses demand the basic humane treatment that we should extend to all of God's creatures, and above that—our society has developed a heightened sense of respect and love for these indispensable animals. In modern times, horses have brought joy and entertainment to many. Through racing, recreation and even therapy to the handicapped, horses have touched the lives of many Americans. Clearly, they hold a special place in our lives and it is for these reasons that so many are strongly opposed to the slaughter of horses in this country for human consumption.

I am very encouraged by the leadership and hard work of Senator ENSIGN, who is himself a veterinarian. His expertise in this issue has brought many groups together in support of this legislation, and has facilitated understanding of the bill's provisions. Having garnered broad support in the House of Representatives, I am firmly committed to seeing that this bill is brought to the attention of all of our colleagues here in the Senate. I look forward to working with Senator ENSIGN and other colleagues, to ensure that we address these important issues and pass a common sense bill that reflects the desires of many of our constituents, who support the humane treatment of horses and the prohibition of their slaughter for human consumption.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 343—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO RESPECT ALL UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND TO PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OR INVOLVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND ELSEWHERE IN VIETNAM

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 343

Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to:

(A) Respect all universally recognized human rights, including the right to freedom of religion and to participate in religious activities and institutions without interference or involvement of the Government;

(B) Respect the human rights of ethnic minority groups in the Central Highlands and elsewhere in Vietnam.

Whereas the Government of Vietnam has discouraged the peaceful expression of dissent by its citizens through intimidation, harassment, and sometimes through imprisonment, house arrest and other forms of detention;

Whereas Vietnamese Government officials may travel freely throughout the United States;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam has failed to adequately address issues of land tenure and discrimination in ethnic minority areas of the Central and Northwest Highlands;

Whereas reports have been received alleging attacks by Vietnamese police and other Government representatives against Montagnards who were engaged in peaceful Easter week demonstrations pressing for religious freedom and the return of ancestral lands;

Whereas Montagnards were reportedly beaten and reportedly killed by police and other Vietnamese government representatives during the recent demonstrations; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate

(A) Strongly urges the Government of Vietnam to respect all universally recognized human rights;

(B) Expresses its concern over reports that the Government of Vietnam used excessive force to put down recent, peaceful demonstrations in Vietnam's Central Highlands;

(C) Calls upon the Government of Vietnam to allow international organizations and foreign observers ongoing unrestricted access to the Central and Northwest Highlands;

(D) Calls upon the Government of Vietnam to allow United States officials to travel freely throughout Vietnam including the Central and Northwest Highlands areas;

(E) Strongly urges the Government of Vietnam to address the concerns of indigenous minorities in the Central and Northwest Highlands of Vietnam, and to permit direct assistance and development activities aimed at improving socioeconomic conditions for all Highlands residents, whether

provided bilaterally, through NGO's, or international organizations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100—CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MAJORITY RULE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RECOGNIZING THE MOMENTOUS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE INSTITUTION OF DEMOCRACY IN THAT COUNTRY

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 100

Whereas the Republic of South Africa peacefully and successfully held democratic elections and transitioned to a democratic, nonracial form of government in 1994;

Whereas South Africa helped initiate and frame the New Partnership for Africa's Development and continues to head this partnership for development and responsible leadership in Africa;

Whereas South Africa actively supports the South African Development Community, which promotes regional economic cooperation and higher standards of living in Southern Africa;

Whereas South Africa has made significant advances in housing by constructing 1,600,000 houses for the poor of South Africa;

Whereas, since 1994, 9,000,000 people in South Africa have gained access to clean water;

Whereas, before 1994, 22,000,000 people in South Africa did not have access to adequate sanitation, but 63 percent of households in South Africa now have access to adequate sanitation;

Whereas, before 1994, 60 percent of people in South Africa did not have electricity, but more than 70 percent of households in South Africa now have electricity;

Whereas, from 1994 to 2004, secondary school enrollment in South Africa increased from 70 percent to 85 percent, and students in South Africa now learn in a racially integrated school system;

Whereas the Government of South Africa has established nutritional and educational programs to benefit the youngest and poorest people in South Africa;

Whereas South Africa is experiencing the longest period of consistent positive growth, as measured by its gross domestic product (GDP), since growth in GDP was properly recorded in the 1940s;

Whereas F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela share a Nobel Peace Prize for their work in ending apartheid in South Africa and establishing a representative government;

Whereas Desmond Tutu led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to repair injustices among South Africans and improve race relations in the country, and was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts;

Whereas South Africa has contributed troops to peacekeeping efforts in Burundi, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Eritrea;

Whereas South Africa President Thabo Mbeki has forged a relationship with President George W. Bush, making three state visits to the United States and hosting President Bush during his visit to Pretoria, South Africa;

Whereas South Africa has served as an inspiration for other African nations striving for democracy and the peaceful cooperation of many ethnic groups;

Whereas, after being isolated for many years because of the odious system of apartheid, South Africa has since 1994 become a premier location for large international conferences, a leading tourist destination, and the locale for numerous films; and

Whereas, in 1993, the Government of South Africa voluntarily halted its biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons programs and, in 1994, hosted the first conference in Africa on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and On Their Destruction, with annexes, done at Paris January 13, 1993, and entered into force April 29, 1997: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) applauds the Republic of South Africa for the remarkable transition to a democratic government and the tremendous progress achieved during 10 years of majority rule;

(2) looks forward to a continued partnership with South Africa focused on a sustained commitment to the health of South Africans; and

(3) anticipates continued social development and economic growth in South Africa.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of majority rule in the Republic of South Africa and to commend the South African people for the momentous social and economic achievements they have made since establishing a more inclusive democracy. We all remember that just ten years ago South Africa held its first democratic, non-racial election on April 27, 1994. This momentous event, along with the subsequent inauguration of Nelson Mandela as President, later in May, signaled the death knell of apartheid and the re-birth of South Africa as a more representative, non-discriminatory democracy. The struggle to end apartheid in South Africa captured the imagination and garnered the support of millions of peoples worldwide, including the people of the United States.

In August 2003, my wife, Honey, and I spent a few days in South Africa as part of a Congressional Delegation led by our Majority Leader, Senator BILL FRIST. While there, we toured Robben Island, the prison island where Nelson Mandela was jailed for twenty-seven years. It was a humbling and inspiring experience to walk the grounds and know that despite his imprisonment in this desolate jail, Mandela could emerge without bitterness or hate and advocate unity and peaceful change as he worked with then President F.W. de Klerk to end apartheid and establish a representative democracy, for which efforts both men received the Nobel Prize in 1993.

Traveling through Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Soweto, and meeting with both white and black South Africans reminded me how far South Africa has come in its social transformation, which has improved the lives of millions. In 1994, 22 million South Africans did not have access to adequate sanitation and 60 percent of South Africans did not have electricity. Now, 63 percent of South African households have